



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

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OES Provides New Fire Engine to Red Bluff City Fire Department

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) announced today the assignment of a new state-of-the-art fire engine to the Red Bluff City Fire Department in Tehama County.

"The OES engine program is a win-win situation," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "Stationing engines owned by OES in local departments benefits the local agencies by providing them with state-of-the art resources they can use to protect lives and property in their communities.

"Equally important is the flexibility the engine program gives OES in coordinating the statewide fire and rescue mutual aid system," continued Renteria. "Instead of having to deploy state resources from one centralized location, possibly hundreds of miles away from a major fire or disaster, we're often able to help save lives and property by deploying engines that are based much closer to the emergency."

The Red Bluff City Fire Department is a first-time recipient of the new engine, which qualifies as a Type 3 Light Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) apparatus. The \$278,000 vehicle is equipped with modern radios, an automatic transmission and other features that meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The new engine's shorter wheelbase enables it to be used in responses to wildland-urban interface fires as well as earthquakes and other emergencies.

The new vehicle is the 11th of 21 engines that OES plans to distribute at a total cost of \$5.8 million during the current three-year replacement cycle, which began last year with the allocation of nine new engines. In exchange for the use of the OES engines during select day-to-day operations, recipient agencies agree to staff the engines and deploy them to major fires outside their communities at the request of OES.

OES currently has a total of 110 engines in its State fleet. OES will use \$5 million in supplemental funding approved by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as part of the 2005/06 budget to increase the current fleet to 129 by the end of the year. The planned purchase of the additional 19 engines will move the OES fleet closer to the goal of 250 recommended by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission after the 2003 Southern California wild fires.

Editor's Note: For photos or B-roll of OES fire engines, call the OES Office of Public Information at 916-845-8400.

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